

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/675,002

Examiner

Adnan M. Mirza

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI, KOJI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/02/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5,8,9,12,13,16,17,20,21 and 24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kmett Edward on 03/27/07.

Please cancel claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23.

Please replace the existing claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 24 with the amended claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 24 below:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network, comprising: display means for displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices as symbol information, respectively, on a display screen; first discriminating means for discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; second discriminating means for discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discriminating means, at least one computer that has a license server function; third discriminating means for discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by said second discriminating means, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a

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license server function for issuing a predetermined license to said data processing apparatus; and first control means for controlling said display means to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated by said third discriminating means such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating means; fourth discriminating means for discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by said data processing apparatus; second control means for controlling the server device discriminated by said fourth discriminating means such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; selecting means for selecting a symbol on the display screen; and service supplying means for supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the predetermined license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected by said selecting means.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [3] 1, wherein the common service which is supplied by said service supplying means includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

5. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the

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network, comprising: display means for displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices, respectively, on a display screen; first discriminating means for discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; second discriminating means for discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discriminating means, at least one computer that has a license server function; third discriminating means for discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by said second discriminating means, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a license to at least said data processing apparatus; and first control means for controlling said display means to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated by said third discriminating means such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating means; fourth discriminating means for discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by said data processing apparatus; second control means for controlling the server device discriminated by said fourth discriminating means such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; selecting means for selecting a symbol on the display screen; and service supplying means for supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected by said selecting means.

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [7] 5, wherein the common service which is supplied by said service supplying means includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

9. (Currently Amended) A data processing method in a data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network, comprising: a display step of displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices as symbol information, respectively, on a display screen; a first discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; a second discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discrimination step, at least one computer that has a license server function; a third discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by the second discriminating step, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least the data processing apparatus; and a first control step of controlling the display step to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated in said third discriminating step such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating step; a fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server

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device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the predetermined license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [11] 9, wherein the common service which is supplied in said service supplying step includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

13. (Currently Amended) A data processing method in a data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network, comprising: a display step of displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices, respectively, on a display screen; a first discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; a second discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discrimination step, at

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least one computer that has a license server function; a third discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by the second discriminating step, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a license to at least the data processing apparatus; and a first control step of controlling said display step to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated in said third discriminating step such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating step; a fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [15] 13, wherein the common service which is supplied in said service supplying step includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

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17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which [may be] is executed by a computer of a data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network, wherein the computer program implements a data processing method of the data processing apparatus, the method comprising: a display step of displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices as symbol information, respectively, on a display screen; a first discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; a second discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discrimination step, at least one computer that has a license server function; a third discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by the second discriminating step, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a predetermined license to at least the data processing apparatus; and a first control step of controlling said display step to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated in said third discriminating step such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating step; a fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service

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supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the predetermined license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim [19] 17, wherein the common service which is supplied in said service supplying step includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which [may be] is executed by a computer of a data processing apparatus that communicates data through a network to each of a plurality of computers and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to the network, wherein the computer program implements a data processing method of the data processing apparatus, the method comprising: a display step of displaying the plurality of computers and the plurality of peripheral devices, respectively, on a display screen; a first discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, at least one computer that has a server function; a second discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the server function discriminated by said first discrimination step, at least one computer that has a license server function; a third discriminating step of discriminating, from the at least one computer that has the license server function discriminated by the second

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discriminating step, a license management server computer that is used by said data processing apparatus and has a license server function for issuing a license to at least the data processing apparatus; and a first control step of controlling said display step to display as a visual symbol the license management server computer discriminated in said third discriminating step such that the license management server computer is distinguished from computers that are not discriminated by said third discriminating step; a fourth discriminating step of discriminating from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim [23] 21, wherein the common service which is supplied in said service supplying step includes a distribution service for distributing a same data to each of the licensee computers.

Reason's For Allowance

1. Claims 1,4,5,8,9,12,13,16,17,20,21,24 will be allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art references most closely resembling the applications claimed invention are Burgess (U.S. 5,796,633), Lau (U.S. 6,101,500) and Wiggins (U.S. 5,717,604).

First Burgess disclosed a method and system for monitoring the performance of a computer coupled to a computer network and optionally generating alerts when the performance of the computer has reached an alertable level. However Burgess did not disclose, "a fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step" (Claims 1,5,9,13,17,21).

Second Lau disclosed a system for managing objects in hierarchical structure, the system being implemented preferably in a network management program. However Lau did not disclose, "a

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fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step” (Claims 1,5,9,13,17,21).

Third Wiggins disclosed a network monitoring system operates on a computer including processor for running a multi-tasking operating system cable of having active and inactive windows. The computer is connected to a server or a service which provides access to a user application subject to a license restriction. However Wiggins did not disclose, “a fourth discriminating step of discriminating, from the plurality of computers, a server device having an image input server function which may be used by the data processing apparatus; a second control step of controlling the server device discriminated in said fourth discriminating step such that the server device may be identified from other devices on the display screen; a selecting step of selecting a symbol on the display screen; and a service supplying step of supplying a common service to each of a plurality of licensee computers to which the license has been issued from the license management server computer, when the license management server computer and the server device have been selected in said selecting step” (Claims 1,5,9,13,17,21).

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In summary, the Examiner submits that there is no motivation to combine the aforementioned references; therefore, claims 1,4,5,8,9,12,13,16,17,20,21,24 have been deemed allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (571)-272-3885.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)-272-3933. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866)-217-9197 (toll-free).



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